

Graduate Program Change Proposal

Form Procedure

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Department/Committee Information

The main contact person for the Graduate Curriculum Committee should fill out this form.

Requestor Name:

* Denise Sargent

Members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee:

Lynn D'Agostino, Robert Shapiro, Jescah Apamo-Gannon, Nermin Bayazit, Dustin Halterman, Kimberly Bennett, Denise Sargent

Department / Unit Developing: * Education

Department Chair:

* Dr. Denise Sargent

* dsargen5@fitchburgstate.edu

Academic Dean :

Dr. Mojdeh Bayat

mbayat@fitchburgstate.edu

Program Chair

The Program Chair for this request is among the people listed above.

* ☒ Yes

☐ No

Program Information

This proposal refers to a (check all that apply): ☐ Certificate Program ☐ Teacher Licensure Program ☒ Degree Program

Does the program run on a cohort model? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Will additional faculty be needed, day/adjunct? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Briefly describe program change to the existing program as it will appear in university catalog:

* Currently, the program requires students in the Ed.S. in IDIS program to take either IDIS 9400 Research Project in Interdisciplinary Studies or IDIS 9500 Graduate Thesis for 6 credits. I am proposing to remove that requirement and add EDUC 9510 Capstone: Implementing Best Practices 3 credits and a new course EDUC 9XXX Research Dissemination 3 credits.

Population/anticipated enrollment/staffing plan (i.e., Who/how many will program serve?)

* Currently, there are 15 students in the Ed.S in IDIS program. I anticipate that 1-3 students will need this course every semester.

Rationale and expected outcomes for program change:

* I am proposing to restructure the program's culminating experience into a three-course research sequence

1. EDUC 9300 – Education Research: Students select a topic or problem in education and complete a literature review. Students will also need to submit an IRB proposal.
2. EDUC 9510 – Capstone: Students implement an action research project based on their literature review and assess the impact on student learning.
3. New Course – Research Dissemination: This advanced course is designed to support students in transforming their research into meaningful professional contributions

How does this change affect the departments Learning Outcomes for the program? List any changes that need to be made.

Remove:

Developing the ability to apply and integrate methods, materials, and/or insights from different disciplines to the solution of a problem, the analysis of an issue, and ultimately the completion of an interdisciplinary capstone thesis or project informed by their previous work in different disciplines

Developing research skills specific to interdisciplinary project design.

The sequence of culminating courses, IDIS 9000 & 9004/5, foster an understanding of how a range of disciplinary lenses can be brought to bear on a problem or issue, and how the research methods from different disciplines can be deployed in meaningful ways to address a range of issues facing our world.

ADD:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the full research process from question development through dissemination.
2. Conduct independent, inquiry-based investigations of contemporary educational issues by identifying problems, gathering evidence, and synthesizing findings to inform practice.
3. Produce scholarly writing, including a well-organized literature review, that integrates, analyzes, and summarizes research to identify educational implications.
4. Apply evidence-based practices and pedagogical theory to design, implement, and evaluate instructional strategies that positively impact student learning.
5. Engage in systematic reflective practice to analyze instruction, student learning, and articulate strategies for professional improvement.
6. Collaborate with faculty, peers, and/or educational stakeholders to refine research and instructional strategies, contribute to professional learning communities, and demonstrate ethical leadership in the field.
7. Communicate research findings effectively through oral, written, visual, and/or digital formats and select appropriate dissemination venues to reach targeted educational audiences.
8. Develop dissemination products (e.g., presentations, workshops, podcasts, publications) that translate evidence-based practices for educators and stakeholders.

Implementation plan (what semester will new policy/policy change begin; will change be phased in)

*This change should begin in the fall 2026. Students currently in the program will be able to take the course as early as spring 2027.

An old and new plan of study must be included with this proposal (Please use template for program revision).

If new courses are proposed or major changes are made to existing courses, submit a Graduate Council New Course Approval form.

Old Plan of Study Attached here.

Proposed New Plan of Study Ed.S..docx

New Plan of Study Attached here

Attach any letter(s) of support from professional agencies
or others within or outside the university.

Signatures

* ...3937333234

Denise Sargent

Requester Signature:

11/18/2025

Date

* ...3835393631

Denise Sargent

Department Chair Approval:

11/18/2025

Date

Graduate Council

The Graduate Council Chair Signature indicates that the Council has discussed this proposal and has decided it should move forward.

* ...3434373637

Moideh Bayat

Academic Dean Signature:

11/19/2025

Date

* ...3535393236

Becky Copper Glenz

SGOCE Dean Signature:

11/25/2025

Date

*

Graduate Council Chair Signature

Date

Notifications

*

Approval of the President

Date

SGOCE Dean Initials

Date

*

Reviewed by the Registrar:

Date

Ed.S. in Educational Studies

Old Plan of Study		New Plan of Study	
Required Courses	Credits	Required Courses	Credits
IDIS 8000 Critical Inquiry in Interdisciplinary Studies	3 cr.	IDIS 8000 Critical Inquiry in Interdisciplinary Studies	3 cr.
EDUC 9300 Education Research	3 cr.	EDUC 9300 Education Research	3 cr.
IDIS 9400 Research Project in Interdisciplinary Studies or IDIS 9500 Graduate Thesis	6 cr.	EDUC 9510 Capstone: Implementing Best Practices	3 cr.
		EDUC 9XXX Research Dissemination	3 cr.
Discipline Area I	12 cr.	Discipline Area I	12 cr.
Discipline Area II	12 cr.	Discipline Area II	12 cr.
Total Credits	36 cr.	Total Credits	36 cr.